

Death of Thomas Gillespie

Died October 26, 1867

Hon. Thomas Gillespie died at his residence in this city, after a very lingering and painful illness, on Saturday evening, Oct 26th. His age was about 63 years.

The deceased was so prominent and highly respected a citizen of our town, and from its infancy for more than thirty years, so fully interwoven with its business interests, that more than the bare announcement of his death, and our loss, would seem proper.

Thomas Gillespie came to Carbondale in the year 1833, then a young man, and recently from Scotland. He first formed a co-partnership with Mr. Charles White, and engaged in the mercantile business. After a brief period this connection was dissolved, and a co-partnership formed with Mr. H. S. Pierce, under the firm of Gillespie & Pierce, the mercantile business was continued for many years with signal popularity, and success. Its prosperity not only surpassed that of any other firm in town, but of any in Northern Pennsylvania. It seemed to comprise in an eminent degree the elements of sagacity, enterprise and caution. After accumulating a handsome fortune, and for the country a large one, the firm discontinued the mercantile business, and associating with them Mr. James Stott, as Gillespie, Pierce & Co., engaged in the business of Private Banking, and with great success. This was continued until the establishment of the First National Bank of Carbondale, when the business of the late Banking Firm, was merged in that of the Bank. Mr. Pierce was elected its President, Mr. Gillespie, the deceased, one of the Directors, and Mr. Stott, Cashier.

Mr. Gillespie was elected one of the Representatives of our county in the Legislature in the year 1848 in connection with Hon. Henry M. Fuller upon the Whig ticket, although our county was then, as since, largely democratic. Being naturally of a retiring disposition, political life was not congenial to him, and he had no desire for farther political honors. He has been an exemplary, temperate, and economical life, always spending sparingly of the large means success placed in his hands, and never seeming to consider himself wealthy. He gave liberally toward the erection of the new edifice of the First Presbyterian Church of this city, of which he became a member by profession, about two years since, and died in the faith and hope of the Gospel.

Mr. Gillespie was never married, and by his will after a Bequest of \$5,000 to the Bible Society, and a small gift to James Clarkson, Esq. as a very dear friend, he distributes his estate, amounting to about \$300,000, among the families of his two surviving and one deceased brother, and two sisters, numbering in all about forty heirs. Each member of the five families is remembered.

His funeral was attended by a numerous concourse of friends on Tuesday afternoon, and an appropriate discourse delivered at the Presbyterian Church by the Pastor, Rev. Oliver Crane.

(Carbondale Advance, November 2, 1867)